



WENHAM

Essex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Wenham was originally settled in 1643, and has fortunately, retained much of its unique, historic character and tranquil rural scenery. It is a town of many open views of farm lands, lakes, woodlands and old stone walls that accompany its winding tree-lined roads. To complement this handsome backdrop, the community is singularly fortunate to have been blessed with an active, involved citizenry, whose major goal has always been to protect what is precious from the past, while continuing to plan ahead for future generations.

Wenham is justly proud of its historic past; its present responsible and responsive local government; a wealth of dedicated and able volunteers; its nearly 300 acres of parks, playgrounds and recreational lands; and its excellent regional school system. Wenham is home to Gordon College, and a well recognized advertising agency. Wenham voters are provided a "Free Lunch For Voters" at its traditional all day Saturday town meeting.

A walk along Wenham's lovely main street provides a timeless picture of beautiful old homes, gardens and yards, punctuated by friendly faces, residents say, giving one a general sense of connection to all that is right about New England small town life.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Beverly on the south, Danvers and Topsfield on the west, Hamilton on the north, and Manchester on the east. Wenham is 22 miles north of Boston and 235 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 8.09 sq. miles

Land Area: 7.72 sq. miles

Population: 4,212

Density: 546 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Middleton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.6°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Salem, Marblehead

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 468-5520

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Coordinator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1643

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 2,170

Democrats 424 19.5 % Republicans 790 36.4 % Other parties 0 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 956 44.1 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Wenham town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	4,440	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	4,440	100.0
Male.....	2,006	45.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	26	0.6
Female.....	2,434	54.8	Mexican.....	6	0.1
Under 5 years.....	231	5.2	Puerto Rican.....	3	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	287	6.5	Cuban.....	6	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	286	6.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	11	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	670	15.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	4,414	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	550	12.4	White alone.....	4,322	97.3
25 to 34 years.....	265	6.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	615	13.9	Total population.....	4,440	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	583	13.1	In households.....	3,469	78.1
55 to 59 years.....	194	4.4	Householder.....	1,285	28.9
60 to 64 years.....	135	3.0	Spouse.....	855	19.3
65 to 74 years.....	319	7.2	Child.....	1,143	25.7
75 to 84 years.....	240	5.4	Own child under 18 years.....	940	21.2
85 years and over.....	65	1.5	Other relatives.....	95	2.1
Median age (years).....	33.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	29	0.7
18 years and over.....	3,464	78.0	Nonrelatives.....	91	2.0
Male.....	1,543	34.8	Unmarried partner.....	23	0.5
Female.....	1,921	43.3	In group quarters.....	971	21.9
21 years and over.....	2,717	61.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	697	15.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	971	21.9
65 years and over.....	624	14.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	256	5.8	Total households.....	1,285	100.0
Female.....	368	8.3	Family households (families).....	957	74.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	483	37.6
One race.....	4,427	99.7	Married-couple family.....	855	66.5
White.....	4,344	97.8	With own children under 18 years.....	438	34.1
Black or African American.....	19	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	76	5.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	-	With own children under 18 years.....	39	3.0
Asian.....	60	1.4	Nonfamily households.....	328	25.5
Asian Indian.....	18	0.4	Householder living alone.....	289	22.5
Chinese.....	22	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	200	15.6
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	505	39.3
Japanese.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	455	35.4
Korean.....	9	0.2	Average household size.....	2.70	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.19	(X)
Other Asian ¹	5	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,320	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,285	97.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	35	2.7
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	10	0.8
Some other race.....	3	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	13	0.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,285	100.0
White.....	4,352	98.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,098	85.4
Black or African American.....	25	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	187	14.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	3	0.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.86	(X)
Asian.....	68	1.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.74	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	4	0.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 92

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Wenham is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

The principal highways are State Routes 1A, 22 and 97.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston from the Hamilton-Wenham Station. (travel time: 46-48 min.; free parking).

Bus

Wenham is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Other

The Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility in neighboring Beverly, has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

Wenham Museum

132 Main Street

(978) 468-2377

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.